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PRESS RELEASE

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USAG Mannheim co-host International Basketball Tournament

MANNHEIM, GE – The U.S. Army Garrison Mannheim, Installation Management Agency-Europe, is gearing up to again co-host the International Albert-Schweitzer Youth Basketball tournament, April 15-22.

This year marks the 23rd anniversary of this renowned tournament labeled the “unofficial World championships of junior basketball teams.” Represented this year will teams from Australia, Canada, China, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Serbia & Montenegro, Spain, Sweden, Turkey (defending champion), Ukraine and the United States with an All-Star team.

Richard "Dick" McCann is returning as head coach for United States team for the 16th time since 1975. He will be assisted by coaches John Rhodes and Tommy Johnson, and delegate Mike Farfour. The following players will represent the United States in the 2006 tournament:

No.	Name	Height	Pos.	Year	Hometown (High School)
4	Edwin Rios	6'0"	PG	Jr	Miami, FL (Chaminade)
5	Matt Salay	6'0"	PG	Jr	Cleveland, OH (St. Edwards)
6	Scoop Jardine	6'2"	SG	Jr	Philadelphia, PA (Neuman-Goretti)
7	Josue Soto	5'11"	SG	Sr	Jacksonville, FL (Arlington County Day)
8	Christopher Battle	6'2"	SG	Sr	Giessen American High School
9	Marvin Gholston	6'4"	SG	Sr	Bamberg American High School
10	Andrae McFarland	6'6"	WF	Sr	Las Vegas, NV (Durango)
11	Luke Babitt	6'6"	WF	Jr	Reno, NV (Galena)
12	Anthony Stewart	6'7"		Jr	Jacksonville, FL (Arlington County Day)
13	Rich Jackson	6'9"	PF	Jr	Philadelphia, PA (Neuman-Goretti)
14	Sam Muldrow	6'10"	C	Jr	Florence, SC (Wilson)
15	Cole Aldrich	7'0"	C	Jr	Bloomington, MN (Jefferson)

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Basketball tournament

The sixteen participating nations have been placed in the following pools:

Group A: China, Germany, Sweden, Turkey

Group B: Canada, Greece, Italy, Serbia Montenegro

Group C: Australia, France, Lithuania, Ukraine

Group D: Croatia, Israel, Spain, USA

Groups A and B play at MWS Sporthalle am Herzogenried, near Turley Barracks, Mannheim. Groups C and D have their games at the Benjamin Franklin Village (BFV) Sports Arena. The pool games of the preliminary round start on Saturday, April 15 at noon in both facilities. The Grand Opening Ceremony for the tournament is held traditionally at the BFV Sports Arena at 4:30 p.m., followed by the first game of the United States team vs. Croatia at approx. 6 p.m.

Sunday and Monday, the US team plays at 8 p.m. Tuesday is an off-day for all teams. Cross pool games are held Wednesday and Thursday at both sports facilities, and starting Friday, April 21, all placement games, semi-finals and finals take place at the BFV Sports Arena only.

Tickets are on sale at the Rhein-Neckar offices of USO. For ticket information, call DSN 385-3668/3195 or Civ. (0621) 730-3668/3195.

Daily tickets will also be available at the door during the tournament starting one hour prior to game times. Ticket prices for preliminary/cross-over round: Adults \$10.00 - youth \$6.00 (Euro prices are 8.00 and 5.00 respectively). Semi-Finals April 21: Adults \$12.00 or Euro 10.00 Youth \$8.00 or Euro 7.00; Championship Day April 22: Adults \$17.00 or Euro 14.00 Youth \$11.00 or Euro 9.00

Reservations for daily tickets for the semi-finals and finals (April 21, 22) can also be made at the German Basketball Federation's office by calling Civ. (02331) 106150; at the BBW Office in Leimen near Heidelberg (06224) 766657 or **starting 14 April** at the DBB Organization Committee Office (0621) 1789230.

The Mannheim Military Community is proud to serve as a co-host of this important tournament, which built bridges of friendship with Eastern block junior national teams during the Cold War and later with even more young athletes and delegates of many re-emerging nations. Come to Mannheim April 15-22 and see future NBA stars in action!

Albert-Schweitzer Tournament Background

In 1958, when a group of Mannheim basketball enthusiasts first organized a tournament for junior teams, they had no idea of the significance this tourney would gain in international basketball. Back then, the national teams of eight countries participated. In the succeeding years, the meeting of a "small circle" has turned into an event of worldwide recognition. It is the largest privately organized tournament for junior national teams in the world, co-hosted by the German Basketball Federation, City of Mannheim, and the U.S. Military Community Mannheim.

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In 1967, the tournament had grown to 12 national teams. From then on, the tournament was held every other year. On the occasion of the 10th tournament, the participants were expanded to 16 teams. The first tournaments were held over one weekend; today it takes seven full days.

Naming the tournament

When the organizers of the tournament named the event, they could not have made a better choice than Albert Schweitzer, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952. His moral integrity, manifested in a rare harmony between thought and action, made him a perfect example for the young athletes. Schweitzer, 83 years old at the time, consented to give his name to the tournament.

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The U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe (IMA-EURO) is one of seven regional offices created Oct. 1, 2002, as part of an Army-wide initiative to focus management of Army installations around the world under one organization. IMA- EURO is responsible for all facets of support for U.S. Army Soldiers and families in Europe from driver's licenses to child care to force protection. As the landlord for all U.S. Army facilities in Europe, IMA- EURO is responsible for infrastructure and continuing the Army's strong commitment to environmental protection. Its higher headquarters is located in Arlington, Va.